

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

**August 18, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, James Little, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Tamiara Wade, Wade Welborn

VACANCY: St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry S. Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.

2. Roll Call (see above).

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the July 2020 regular meeting minutes.

5. Financial Statement Report

Bailey presented to the Board the July 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to approve the July 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

6. Executive Director Report

- Comite River Diversion Canal Project: Rietschier said that the construction of the Project is currently in the hands of the USACE. ARBC remains 1 of 4 partners of the Project. Monthly meetings are held to provide updates and discussion amongst the 4 partners. He provided the status of the construction, real estate, rights-of-way, and utility relocation. Last week, he and Thompson went to the McHugh Road area to see the progress being made in that area. From McHugh Rd., you can see Hwy. 19 traffic because much clearing has been done. DOTD is working as hard as they can on acquiring real estate.
- LA DOTD Report: Real estate is working on priority acquisitions at this time for the entire project. US 61 utility relocations will be complete with the completion of the Demco/AT&T relocation currently underway. All other utilities that have been identified as compensable are reviewing and negotiating their Construction Reimbursement Agreements. Currently there are some compensability determinations still in development at USACE. LA 964 design is complete with project award anticipated by the end of 2020. LA 67 design is approximately 50% complete. LA 19 design is approximately 30% complete.
- Rietschier has been working with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative in Region 7, which is the Lake Pontchartrain Watershed.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel:

- Copies of all active CRDC Project contracts from USACE and LA DOTD: Bankston has requested the contracts as a Freedom of Information Act Public Records Request, even though ARBC is a partner in the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
- It is believed that much of the land for the CRDC Project has not been secured possibly due to revisions in the Canal. Bankston stated this may hamper the 2022 deadline. It could also lead to the ARBC being asked to make more contributions after all accounting is done. This will not be known until the end of the Project. ARBC may eventually become involved in the maintenance of the Canal as City Parish has noted they only want to be responsible for maintenance of the property located inside the right-of-way of the Canal. This, too, will not be known until the end of the Project.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business

- Adopt the millage rate(s) for the tax year 2020: Resolution 1154. As there were no public comments, a motion was made by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve Resolution No. 1154, as presented, to adopt the millage rate of 2.220 for the tax year 2020. The roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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YEAS: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, James Little, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Tamiara Wade, Wade Welborn

*Vacancy: St. Helena Parish*

10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, seconded by Babin to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: October 20, 2020

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary